

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC, Key West, Florida
May 24-26, 2011

- 1. Title of Discussion:** Aquaculture update
- 2. Presenters:** Susan Bunsick, Senior Policy Specialist
Lorenzo Juarez, Aquaculture Program Deputy Manager.
- 3. Objective/Purpose:** For information

4. Background/Synopsis:

The 60-day public comment period on the NOAA and DOC draft aquaculture policies ended April 11, 2011, with nearly 200 comments received. The comments are generally supportive of the draft policies. The main topics of the comments are:

- Comments from industry and some states on need for action on increasing US marine aquaculture production
- Balance between aquaculture development and marine stewardship objectives of NOAA
- Arguments in favor or against NOAA's Regulatory Authority in Federal Waters
- Action on Gulf Aquaculture Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
- More prescriptive language regarding Aquaculture in Federal Waters
- Need for shellfish initiatives
- Need for expanded NOAA support for innovation, research, and technology transfer

The proposed responses under study and next steps on the DOC and NOAA policies will be discussed during the meeting with special reference to MAFAC's comments. June/July 2011 has been tentatively identified as the target for releasing the final DOC and NOAA aquaculture policies and announcing several aquaculture initiatives as part of the roll-out.

5. Options listed from 1 to n: N/A

6. Preferred Recommendation: N/A

Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: